

SEPTEMBER 17, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 15172--Passport Fees--which will authorize the Secretary of State to prescribe by regulation the fee for execution of a passport application; continues and makes permanent the Secretary's authority to transfer to the United States Postal Service the execution fee for each passport application accepted by that Service.

Current law authorizes the collection of a two dollar fee for the execution of each passport application. This statutory fee, however, no longer covers the costs incurred in executing passport applications. This bill will correct this situation by authorizing the Secretary of State to prescribe the execution fee by regulation. This authority will be similar to that which the Secretary of State presently exercises with respect to fees for consular services and will provide the needed flexibility to periodically adjust the passport execution fee to insure that it adequately covers costs.

H. R. 15172 will also provide the Secretary of State with permanent authority to transfer to the United States Postal Service the passport execution fee for each passport application accepted by that Service. The previous, temporary authority for such transfers expired on June 30, 1974.

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